

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

SUBJECT The Goten Uranium Mine

DATE DISTR. 25 March 1953

NO. OF PAGES 11

25X1

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The "Mina Goten," Bulgaria's main uranium mine, is located approximately eight kilometers north of Bukhovo village, on the summit of Goten Peak of the Stara Planina mountain chain. Although its full name is "Mina Goten," it is most often referred to as the Bukhovo Uranium Mine because of its proximity to Bukhovo village. (See Appendix, based on a [] drawing [] showing the location of the mine, the various shafts, and mine buildings.) 25X1
2. From October 1947 to February 1949, the mine consisted of four shafts which have been in operation since 1946 when the working of the mine was taken over by the Soviets. These four shafts, known as "Chinilev Kamuk," "Chetvurta Yuzhna," "Peta Yuzhna," and "Treta Shtolna,"¹ are both horizontal and vertical shafts; that is, all four are horizontal shafts of various lengths and have numerous branch galleries, two of which end in rectangular underground chambers three meters by four meters in size and have vertical shafts. [] whether or not new veins of uranium ore have been discovered or whether new shafts have been opened at this site since February 1949. Details of the four shafts are as follows: 25X1

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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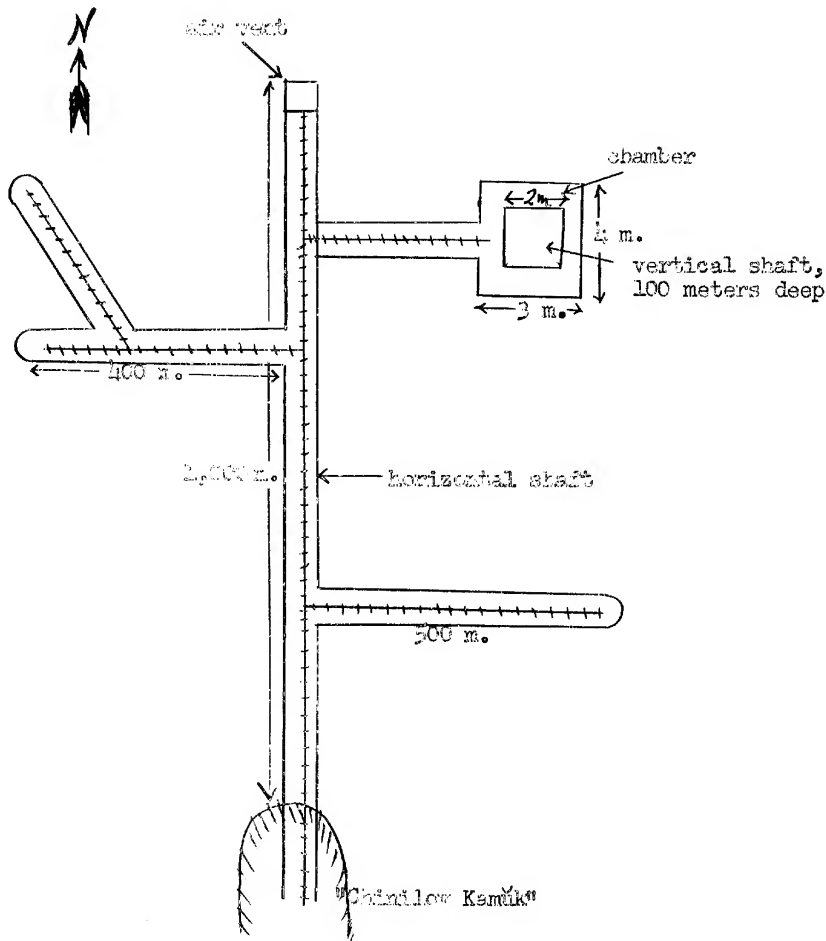
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- a. "Chinilov Kamik," the main horizontal shaft, is two meters wide, 1.6 meters high, and 1,000 meters long; it has an air vent two meters by two meters in size which is 40 meters long at the extreme end; one of its three side galleries ends in a rectangular chamber three meters by four meters in size which contains a vertical shaft two meters by two meters, 100 meters deep, in which a maximum of three miners can work at one time:



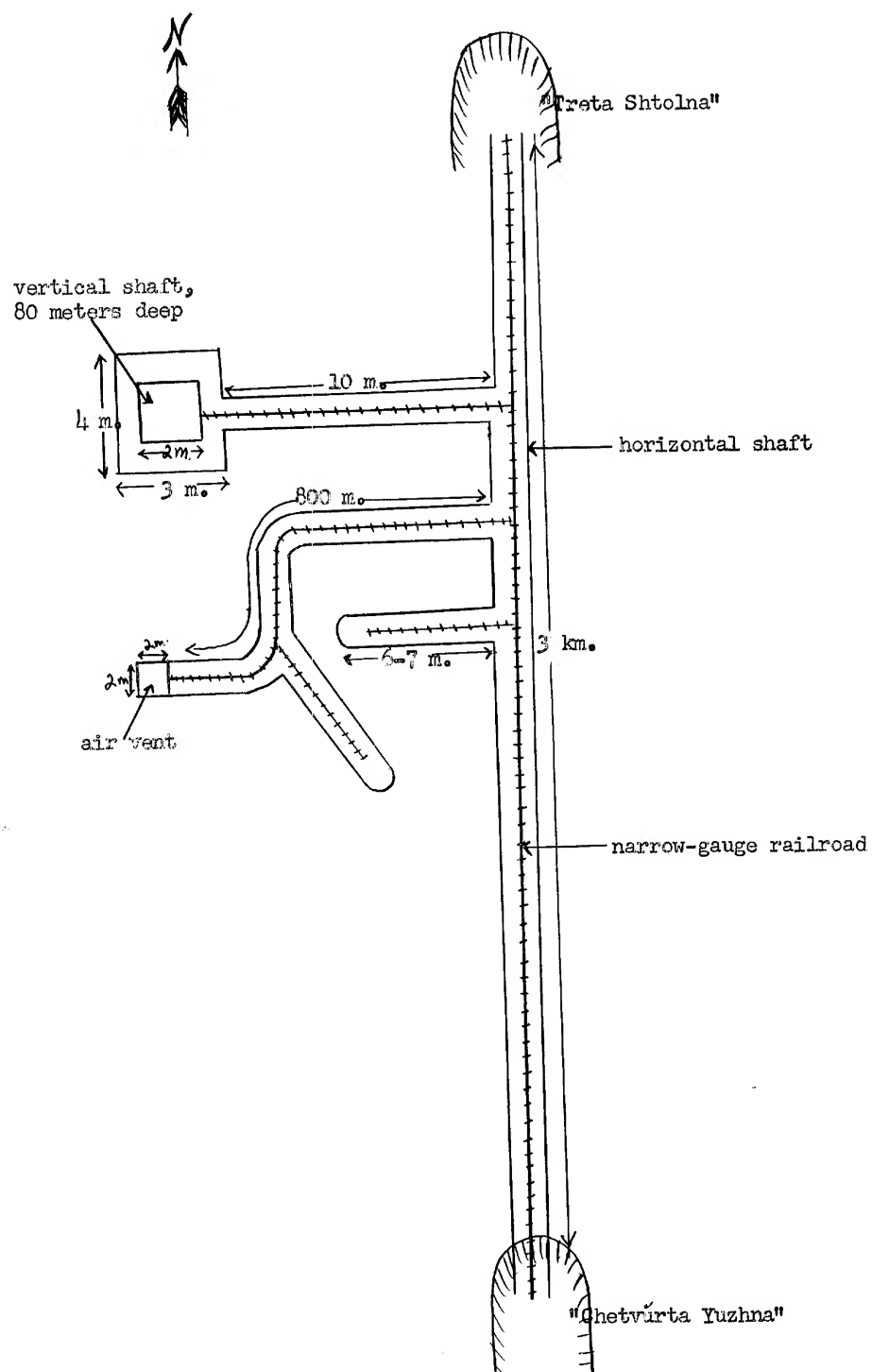
- b. "Chetvortsa Yablina" and "Tretya Stalina" are really a single shaft with two openings 3,000 meters apart; this shaft, like all other horizontal shafts and side galleries of the mine, is two meters wide and 1.6 meters high; there is an air vent two meters by two meters in size, 40 meters long, at the extreme end of the 800-meter long side gallery; there is a rectangular chamber three meters by four meters in size which contains a vertical shaft two meters square and 80 meters deep at the end of a 10-meter long side gallery; a horizontal shaft 40 meters long and extending to the west is located at the bottom of the vertical shaft (not shown on the sketch): ...

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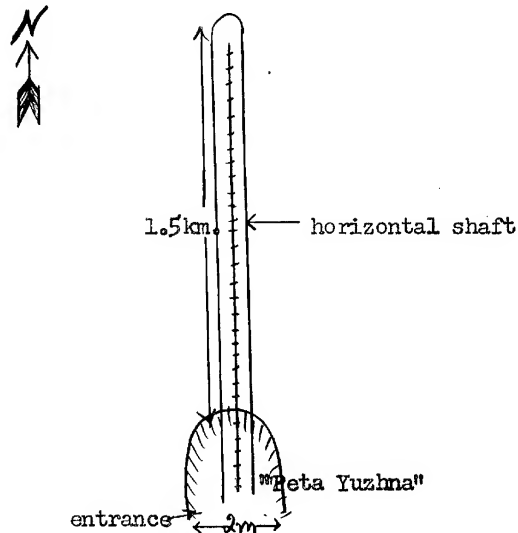
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- c. "Peta Yuzhna", a single horizontal shaft approximately 1,500 meters long, two meters wide, and 1.6 meters high:



Method of Mining

3. All ore and waste mined in any of the horizontal shafts or galleries is loaded into 2-man handcarts, capacity 300 kilos, which run on rails and are trundled to the shaft entrances for sorting. The ore from the bottom of the vertical shaft in the "Treta Shtolna" Shaft is raised in buckets of 60 kilo capacity by means of a motor-driven pulley, while the ore from the bottom of the vertical shaft in the "Chinilov Kamuk" Shaft is raised by means of a hand-operated winch.
4. After the ore has been sorted at the shaft entrances, it is placed in wooden troughs of 15 ton capacity and loaded on trucks for transfer to the ore dressing plant.
5. Except for a building measuring 10 by 6-7 by 4-5 meters, located on the northern side of the ore dressing plant and used as a storage space for ore, there are no stock-piles of ore at the mine.

Equipment Used

6. Pneumatic hammers (vūzdūshni chukovi) and pneumatic "pistols" (vūzdūshni pistoleti), which use compressed air supplied by three air compressors located in a building east of the "Treta Shtolna" shaft entrance (see No. 5 of Appendix), are used in addition to pick-axes and shovels. The "pistols" are used for drilling holes one to two meters deep in the face of the rock for the insertion of dynamite for blasting. The dynamite is stored in an underground storage area to the west of the "Peta Yuzhna" shaft (exact location unknown).
7. Electricity used by the mine is supplied from Sofia by way of Bukhovo village.
8. The compressed air is piped into the various shafts through metal pipes which are 13 to 15 centimeters in diameter. Within the shafts, the pipes are seven to eight centimeters in diameter.

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9. The three types of instruments and the manner in which each is employed are as follows:

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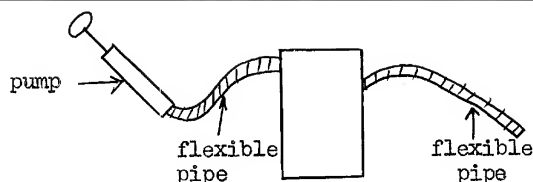
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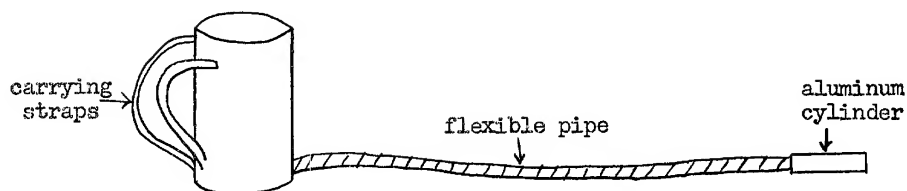
- a. An instrument known as a "Kamara," 50 of which are used at the mine; this instrument is allegedly used to detect the presence of uranium and is employed as follows: The end of the tube is placed in the ground and air is drawn into the box by means of a pump; the air is then examined by personnel of the mine administration located in Bukhovo village;

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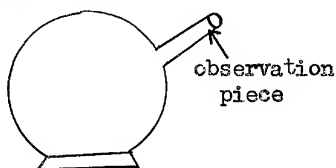
- b. An instrument for determining the density of uranium ore, equipped with a dial which indicates the density of the ore in any given area; carried on the backs of miners

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- c. An instrument known as a "Gamba," which is used for grading the ore, located at the entrance to each gallery; the globe of the instrument, which is made of green-painted tin, is placed directly on the ore and a dial graded from 1 to 20 can be observed through the observation hole projection how many grades of ore are at the mine or the manner in which the "Gamba" instrument is used for classifying the ore:

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Properties of the Ore

10. In daylight and under lamp light, the ore appears to be "yew green"

25X1

11. The ore is brittle and crumbles into pieces about the size of grains of rice.

Production and Research

12. The ore is separated into three grades. Approximately one-third of the ore is in the first grade and the remainder is designated as second and third grade ore

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13. Thirty 3-ton trucks are used to transport approximately 540 tons of ore daily to the dressing plant (see No. 13 of Appendix).

14. Approximately 12 to 15 tons of waste are removed from the shafts in every 8-hour shift.

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15. In February 1952 [redacted] two Trudovak soldiers, Dimitŭr Georgiev Stoimenov and Petŭr Nedelkov Kristev who were assigned to the Goten Mine, that shafts had been sunk at Seslavtsi village (N 42-47, E 23-31) and at Kremikovtsi village (N 42-47, E 23-30) and that a geological research commission was searching for uranium on the "Mŭrgash" hills of the Stara Planina. 25X1

16. Residents of the surrounding villages are not encouraged to do independent prospecting.

Disposition of the Ore

17. The ore is taken from the mine to the dressing plant. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] it is washed with sulfuric acid. 25X1

18. The ore is then taken by truck to the Yana railroad station and sent under Militia guard to Varna. [redacted] the ore is sent to the 25X1
Soviet Union from Varna.

Security Measures at the Mine

19. Only mine employees are permitted within 500 meters of the mine area. .
20. There are four Militia posts in the mine area in addition to the post at each shaft entrance (see Appendix for the locations of three of these posts) [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Each 25X1
watch is four hours long, and one Militia man is on duty at each post. The guards are armed with 7.62 millimeter "Shpagen" submachine guns.
21. Workers may enter the mine area only after passing the Militia post shown as No. 10 in the Appendix. They are searched by two Militia men and must show their entrance passes; no mechanical searching devices are used.
22. The entrance passes are cards of the folding type, similar to identity cards. "Entrance card" (Propŭsk) is written on the outside flap and the bearer's name and photograph are on the inside flaps.
23. Workers are permitted to enter and leave the mine area at will.
24. Militia men are stationed on each side of the dressing plant enclosure.

Personnel

25. Approximately 30 Soviets are employed in the administration section of the mine; the only non-Soviet administrative employee is the cashier.
26. Approximately 120 Soviet soldiers are at the mine; they are attached to the research section and are engaged in drilling for new ore veins.
27. The employed personnel at the mine totals about 800. In addition, there are approximately 400 Trudovaks, 50 of which are miners, and the rest of which work on the surface and at the dressing plant.
28. Approximately 400 civilian miners, ranging from 16 to 40 years of age, are employed at the mine; there are no women or prison laborers. Approximately 20 men work in the blacksmith and lathe shop, four or five men work on the air compressor machines, and nine men are engaged in sorting the ore. There is one master miner for each two regular miners.
29. [redacted] employees at the mine: 25X1

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- a. Milev (fnu), technician at the "Chinilov Kamuk" shaft;
- b. Yordan (lru). Militia man at the mine [redacted] 25X1
- c. Dimitur Ivanov Todorov, miner since 1946 and still at the mine as of February 1952 [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Communist Party member;
- d. Danyan Georgiev Angelov, miner since 1946 and still at the mine as of February 1952 [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] joined Communist Party after 1944; 25X1
- e. Stefan Khristov, miner, still at the mine as of February 1952 [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Communist Party member prior to 1944; and
- f. Grigor Lazarov Mitrov, miner, still at the mine as of February 1952 [redacted]
[redacted] joined the Communist Party after 1944.

Personnel Expansion and Turnover

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30. The labor force is relatively stable. Dismissals occur only when a worker is found to have been an anti-Communist.
31. "Some" workers leave voluntarily because the conditions within the mine affect their health. Workers who have been employed three or four years underground are assigned surface jobs.
32. In February 1952 [redacted] 11 residents of Potop village were working at the mine, whereas there were only four in 1949. 25X1

Hours and Wages

33. There are three 8-hour shifts per day in the shafts. Surface employees work from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The only holidays celebrated are 9 September and 1 May.
34. [redacted] the mine manager receives 250,000 leva (old currency) per month and engineers and technicians receive from 80,000 to 100,000 leva (old currency) per month. 25X1
35. Surface workers receive the following wages (old currency) per day:
- a. Master workmen, 800 leva;
 - b. Journeymen, 300 leva; and
 - c. Apprentices, 250 leva.
36. Chief foremen in the shafts receive 800 leva and foremen receive 500 leva. Miners can choose between the following schedules:
- a. Daily wage of 400 leva; or

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- b. Sub-contract for 70,000 to 80,000 leva a month³; there is a standard schedule, based on shaft size, usually 2 by 1.6 meters, and the hardness of the ground; 20 cubic meters of soft soil equated with 8-10 meters of hard soil per day; subcontractors repay from their earnings for incompleting quotas.

37. [redacted] the current wages are 20 leva 25X1
per day (new currency) for underground work and 15 leva per day (new currency) for surface work.

Housing

38. The Soviet employees reside in private homes in Sofia. All of these employees, except the manager who has a private car, are transported to and from the mine by a private bus.
39. A brick dormitory which houses 40 miners is located 30 meters north of the administration offices in Bukhovo village (see No. 18 of Appendix for location). Other miners live with their families in rented rooms in Bukhovo.
40. Trucks go daily to Zhelyavo (N 42-45, E 23-36), Eleshnitsa (N 42-44, E 23-37), Potop (N 42-44, E 23-38), and Churek (N 42-46, E 23-43) to pick up workers who live in these villages. These are usually natives of the villages who have been recruited for work in the mines.
41. The Trudovaks assigned to the mine are billeted at the monastery (see No. 15 of Appendix for location).

Special Services

42. There is a canteen for workers who live in the dormitory in Bukhovo. These residents are served tea or soup in the morning and two dishes at noon and in the evening. The cost of the food is deducted from the wages of the workers.
43. The Soviet personnel is fed separately from the Bulgarian personnel.
44. Workers are allowed one kilogram of bread a day, 1.5 kilograms of "Balkan" cheese, one kilogram of sugar, one kilogram of sunflower oil, one kilogram of rice, and 300 grams of red pepper per month.⁴
45. Miners are issued a linen jacket, linen trousers, and rubber boots about once every six months. In winter, workers are given coarse cotton jackets, trousers, and caps. These clothes are not left at the mine when the worker is off duty. There is no chemical processing of the clothing at the mine.
46. There are no recreational and shopping facilities at the mine. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] a movie house is to be built in Bukhovo village. 25X1

Health Facilities

47. An infirmary of unknown size is located in Bukhovo and is for the use of the miners. The personnel at the infirmary consists of two doctors and two nurses.
48. Miners are given a regular physical examination only when they begin their period of employment at the mines.
49. Tuberculosis is the most frequent illness of the miners and is "a result of the heat and use of dynamite in the shafts." Many of the workers faint daily.

50. [redacted] 25X1

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Miscellaneous

51. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] one cave-in occurred in which a Trudovak was killed.

52. [redacted] Their wages are higher
than those of workers in "other types of mines."

1. [redacted] Comment: Insofar as could be ascertained, the word "Shtolna" is neither
a Bulgarian nor a Russian word. 25X1

[redacted] The titles "Chetvürta
Yuzhna," "Peta Yuzhna," and "Treta Shtolna" refer to the "Fourth Southern,"
"Fifth Southern," and "Third Shtolna" shafts respectively. 25X1
[redacted] what happened to the "First Southern," "Second Southern,"
"Third Southern," "First Shtolna," or "Second Shtolna" shafts.

2. [redacted] Comment: Some of the instruments employed at the mine, although used
daily, are evidently far too technical in nature [redacted] the
exact use to which they are put or the precise manner in which they are used. 25X1

3. [redacted] Comment: These figures are out of proportion [redacted]
[redacted] It is possible that these figures apply to the
pay of a group or team.

4. [redacted] Comment: At the time of observation, October 1947 to February 1949, food
rationing was in existence.

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LEGEND TO APPENDIX

1. "Chinilov Kamuk" shaft.
2. "Chetvürta Yuzhna" shaft.
3. "Peta Yuzhna" shaft.
4. "Treta Shtolna" shaft.
5. Building which houses the compressors.
6. Dining hall and kitchen.
7. Lathe and locksmith shop.
8. Planing shop.
9. Dormitory for Militia men.
10. Control entrance gate.
11. Garage.
12. Mine administration building.
13. Ore dressing plant.
14. Ore storage depot.
15. Monastery.
16. Ore dressing plant chimney.
17. Clothing and equipment depot.
18. Dormitory (located in Bukhovo village but not shown on sketch).

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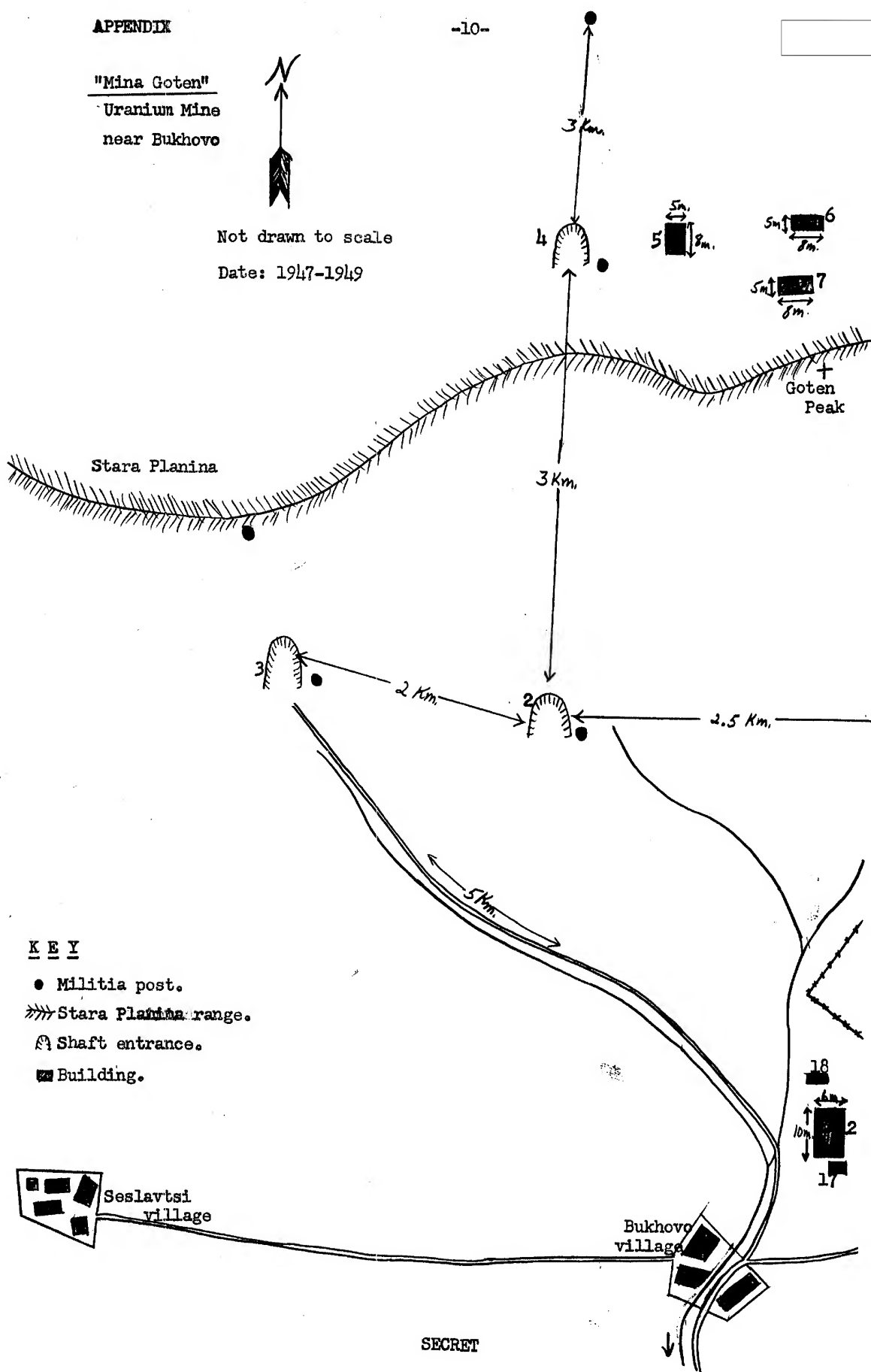
APPENDIX

"Mina Goten"
 Uranium Mine
 near Bukhovo



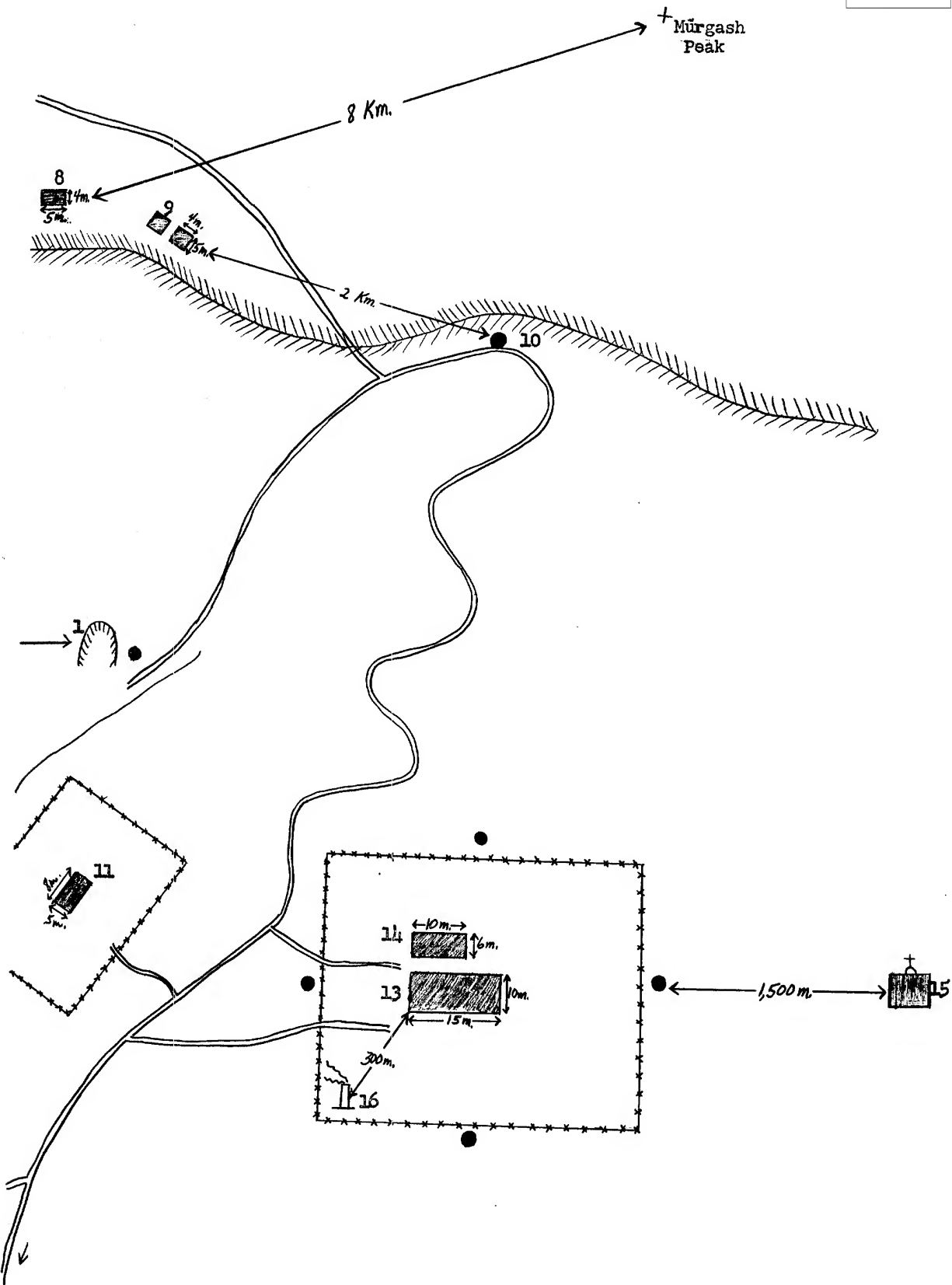
Not drawn to scale

Date: 1947-1949



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